

Closing hymn

Christ whose glory fills the skies
(NEH 234)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Son of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.
(Charles Wesley, 1707-88)

Please feel free to leave quietly during the closing music, or to wait until the end

)
in case anyone would like some individual prayer, we will be available in the side chapels after the service

If you would like to be part of our Reflections team, helping us to put together the service and/or deliver it, please speak to any one of the team.

*The Parish Church of St Andrew
and St Cuthman, Steyning*

REFLECTIONS



Transfiguration of Christ

This is my Son, Listen to Him
(Luke 9.35)

6 August 2023

Opening Music

Deep River - (traditional African-American spiritual, arranged by Henry Burleigh, Performed by VOCES8 & Chineke!)

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over
into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that
gospel feast?
That promised land, where all is peace?

Words of Welcome

For most of Jesus' earthly life, He veiled His greatness. Nevertheless, He remained God, with all of His divine attributes. At the Transfiguration, Jesus unveiled a glimpse of His divinity to Peter, James, and John. It was a sight they would never forget; and one Jesus needed them to see so they could be strengthened when their faith would be put to the ultimate test at the sight of His crucifixion and death.

Though divine, Jesus was also human. The Transfiguration served to strengthen His human will as well. Moses and Elijah appeared to Christ, conversing with Him, as all of the Law and prophecies God revealed through them were about to be fulfilled in Jesus' suffering.

We too sometimes experience these Transfiguration moments – both as a disciple of Christ, and in our own personal lives. They may occur through a major life event, the witness of another person's life, unexpected mercy received, or a deep encounter with God in prayer. While they aren't the sum of a person's faith, they do strengthen one's loyalty to God and conviction of His truth and love. They help a person persevere through those times when faith can be tested.

Closing prayer

Lord of glory, look with favour on your Church,
proclaiming your beloved Son to the world
and listening to the promptings of his Spirit
May the church be renewed in holiness and reflect your glory.
Lord of glory, it is good if we suffer with you so that we shall be glorified with you.
According to your promise bring all Christ's brothers and sisters ...
to see him with their own eyes in majesty
and to be changed into his likeness from glory to glory.
To him be praise, dominion and worship
now and for all eternity.
Amen.

Blessing

This is the gospel of all inner meaning,
The heart of heaven opened to the
earth,
A gentle friend on Jesus' bosom
leaning,
And Nicodemus offered a new birth.
No need to search the heavens high
above,
Come close with John and feel the
pulse of Love.

(Malcolm Guite)

Meditation

This is my Son, listen to Him

St John 6:35: I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall never hunger.

St John 8:12: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

St John 10:9: I am the door; if any one enters by me he will be saved.

St John 10:11: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

St John 11:25: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

St John 14:6: I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me.

St John 15:1: I am the true vine. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

Now about eight days after these sayings, Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And when he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" – not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my son, my chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no-one of any of the things they had seen.

Luke 9 v28-36

Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, who appeared in majesty to your disciples on the mountain and spoke of your coming passion: we adore you in the glory of your transfiguration and own you as our crucified Lord; and we pray that we, beholding and reflecting your glory, may be changed into your likeness from one degree of glory to another by the Lord, the Spirit, to the praise and honour of your name.

(Frank Colquhoun)

God of Moses and Elijah,
 Father of Jesus Christ our Lord,
 we recall that fearful moment on the
 mount
 when Peter, James and John heard your
 voice
 and saw the touch of glory on your
 Son.
 May we by faith behold his majesty
 and give him the obedience and
 reverence which are his due;
 and to his name be dominion and
 power now and for evermore.
 (Roger Pickering)

Reading: Poem

*envisages a disciple, looking back at the
 Transfiguration from Good Friday.*

For that one moment, 'in and out of
 time',
 On that one mountain where all
 moments
 meet,
 The daily veil that covers the sublime
 In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
 There were no angels full of eyes and
 wings
 Just living glory full of truth and grace.
 The love that dances at the heart of
 things
 Shone out upon us from a human face
 And to that light the light in us leaped
 up.
 We felt it quicken somewhere deep
 within,
 A sudden blaze of long-extinguished
 hope
 Trembled and tingled through the
 tender skin.
 Nor can this blackened sky, this
 darkened scar
 Eclipse that glimpse of how things
 really are.
 (by Malcolm Guite)

Music into Silence

Sing Gently

(Eric Whitacre, sung by VOCES8)

May we sing together, always
 May our voice be soft
 May our singing be music for others
 And may it keep others aloft
 Sing, sing gently, always
 Sing, sing as one (as one)
 May we stand (may we stand) together,
 always
 May our voice be strong
 May we hear the singing and
 May we always sing along (along)
 Sing, sing gently, always
 Sing, sing as one (as one)
 Singing gently as one

Reflective Silence

(We will keep a period of silence
 for 12-15 minutes)

Music out of Silence:

Spiegel im spiegel (Mirror in mirror;
 Arvo Pärt)

Reading: Poem

Sonnet for the Feast of St John the Evangelist

This is the gospel of primal light,
 The first beginning, and the fruitful end,
 The soaring glory of an eagle's flight,
 The quiet touch of a beloved friend.
 This is the gospel of our
 transformation,
 Water to wine and grain to living
 bread,
 Blindness to sight and sorrow to
 elation,
 And Lazarus himself back from the
 dead!